James Everett Shelton 316 Covered Bridge Road King of Prussia, PA 19406 (484) 626-3942 jeshelton595@gmail.com

Plaintiff, Pro Se

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JAMES EVERETT SHELTON 316 Covered Bridge Road King of Prussia, PA 19406 Plaintiff	: No
v. STRATEGIC FUNDING SOURCE, INC., d/b/a KAPITUS c/o Corporation Service Company 80 State Street Albany, NY, 12207 Defendant	
COM	PLAINT:

Plaintiff, James Everett Shelton, brings this action against Defendant STRATEGIC FUNDING SOURCE, INC., d/b/a KAPITUS, and alleges based on personal knowledge and information, and belief, as follows:

#### **Preliminary Statement**

1. As the Supreme Court recently explained, "Americans passionately disagree about many things. But they are largely united in their disdain for robocalls. The Federal Government receives a staggering number of complaints about robocalls—3.7 million complaints in 2019 alone. . . . For nearly 30 years, the people's representatives in Congress have been fighting back." Barr v. Am. Ass'n of Pol. Consultants LLC, 140 S. Ct. 2335, 2343 (2020).

- 2. Plaintiff James Everett Shelton ("Plaintiff") brings this action under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227, alleging that STRATEGIC FUNDING SOURCE, INC., d/b/a KAPITUS sent a series of automated telemarketing calls for the purposes of commercial solicitation by contacting Plaintiff's cellular telephone number listed on the National Do-Not-Call Registry, which is prohibited by the TCPA.
- Plaintiff never consented to receive any of these calls, which were placed to him for telemarketing purposes.

#### **Parties**

- 4. The Plaintiff is JAMES EVERETT SHELTON ("Plaintiff"), a natural person, and resides in King of Prussia, PA 19406, and is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and was the individual who received the alleged phone calls in this case on his private mobile telephone, and was a resident of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania during the calls.
- 5. Defendant STRATEGIC FUNDING SOURCE, INC., d/b/a KAPITUS ("Kapitus") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, and can be served via its registered agent, Corporation Service Company, at 80 State Street, Albany, NY 12207. Defendant is headquartered in New York City with its principal place of business located at 120 W. 45th St, New York, NY 10036.
- 6. Defendant markets and sells, *inter alia*, loans and business financing to people in Pennsylvania, and engages in telemarketing into this district, as it did with the Plaintiff.

#### Jurisdiction & Venue

7. This Court has federal-question subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's TCPA claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the TCPA is a federal statute. *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs.*, *LLC*, 556 U.S. 368, 372 (2012).

- 8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant because they have repeatedly placed telemarketing calls to Pennsylvania residents with Pennsylvania telephone area codes, and derive revenue from Pennsylvania residents, and they sell goods and services to Pennsylvania residents, including the Plaintiff.
- 9. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1)-(2) in that Defendant conducts business in, and a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and Plaintiff was residing in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (in King of Prussia, PA) during all of the calls made by Defendant as alleged in this action. Plaintiff maintains a phone number with a (484) area code which represents a phone service region inside the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which Defendant called on at least thirteen (13) different occasions for the purposes of commercial solicitation. Defendant conducts business in this judicial district by calling Pennsylvania citizens.

#### **Statutory Background**

#### The Telephone Consumer Protection Act

10. In 1991, Congress enacted the TCPA to regulate the explosive growth of the telemarketing industry. In so doing, Congress recognized that "[u]nrestricted telemarketing ... can be an intrusive invasion of privacy[.]" Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, Pub. L. No. 102-243, § 2(5) (1991) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 227).

#### The TCPA Prohibits Automated Telemarketing Calls

11. The TCPA makes it unlawful "to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice ... to any telephone number assigned to a ... cellular telephone service ... or any service for which the called party is charged for the call." See 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(l)(A)(iii).

- 12. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(l)(A). See 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).
- 13. According to findings by the Federal Communication Commission ("FCC"), the agency Congress vested with authority to issue regulations implementing the TCPA, such calls are prohibited because, as Congress found, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live solicitation calls, and such calls can be costly and inconvenient.
- 14. The FCC also recognized that "wireless customers are charged for incoming calls whether they pay in advance or after the minutes are used." In re Rules and Regulations

  Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991, CG Docket No. 02-278, Report and Order,

  18 F.C.C. Rcd. 14014, 14115 ¶ 165 (2003).
- 15. In 2013, the FCC required prior express written consent for all autodialed or prerecorded telemarketing calls ("robocalls") to wireless numbers and residential lines. Specifically, it ordered that:
  - [A] consumer's written consent to receive telemarketing robocalls must be signed and be sufficient to show that the consumer: (1) received "clear and conspicuous disclosure" of the consequences of providing the requested consent, i.e., that the consumer will receive future calls that deliver prerecorded messages by or on behalf of a specific seller; and (2) having received this information, agrees unambiguously to receive such calls at a telephone number the consumer designates.[] In addition, the written agreement must be obtained "without requiring, directly or indirectly, that the agreement be executed as a condition of purchasing any good or service.[]" In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991, 27 F.C.C. Rcd. 1830, 1844 (2012) (footnotes omitted).

The National Do-Not-Call Registry

16. The National Do Not Call Registry allows consumers to register their telephone numbers and thereby indicate their desire not to receive telephone solicitations at those numbers. See 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2). A listing on the Registry "must be honored indefinitely, or until the

registration is cancelled by the consumer or the telephone number is removed by the database administrator." Id.

- 17. The TCPA and implementing regulations prohibit the initiation of telephone solicitations to residential telephone subscribers to the Registry. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c); 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2).
- 18. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of § 227(c) or a regulation promulgated thereunder. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).
- 19. A text message is considered a "call" under the TCPA. Campbell-Ewald Co. v. Gomez, 136 S. Ct. 663 (2016).

#### **Factual Allegations**

- 20. Kapitus provides loans to companies.
- 21. Kapitus' telemarketing efforts include the use of automated dialing equipment to send automated calls.
- 22. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff maintained and used a cellular telephone line, with phone number (484) 626-3942.
- 23. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was the subscriber of the telephone number (484) 626-3942 and paid his cell phone bill through T-Mobile.
- 24. Plaintiff's phone number is his private cell phone number and is used by Plaintiff solely.
- 25. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff's phone number was registered with T-Mobile as his personal telephone number and not as a business number.
- 26. Plaintiff's personal cellular telephone number is a "residential" telephone number that he uses for various personal, family, and household purposes, such as sending and receiving emails, timing food when cooking, sending and receiving text messages, calling friends and family while

at home, using the phone's alarm function to wake up in the morning, and for navigation purposes.

- 27. Plaintiff's personal cellular telephone number (484) 626-3942 has been registered on the National Do-Not-Call Registry since June 26, 2015.
- 28. Plaintiff registered his phone number on the Do Not Call list in order to obtain solitude from invasive and harassing telemarketing calls and text messages. The calls prevented Plaintiff from using his phone for legitimate purposes.
- 29. The Plaintiff has received at least thirteen (13) telemarketing calls between June 17, 2019 and September 19, 2019 to his personal cell phone number 484-626-3942, without his prior express written consent and not related to an emergency purpose, promoting working capital and/or financing services from Defendant Kapitus.
- 30. Call 1: On July 28, 2021 at 3:38 PM EDT, the Plaintiff received a telemarketing call which displayed on Plaintiff's caller identification as (212) 812-4646.
- 31. The Plaintiff answered and received a scripted sales pitch about business funding from the caller.
- 32. The caller identified himself as "Raziel Garcia" with Kapitus.
- 33. In order to confirm the caller's identity and his company's information, the Plaintiff feigned interest in Defendant's telemarketing pitch, and asked Mr. Garcia to send Plaintiff an email, but Plaintiff did not consent to receive any calls back in the future.
- 34. As a direct result of the telemarketing call, Raziel Garcia, rgarcia@kapitus.com, contacted the Plaintiff by e-mail shortly after the call ended, at 3:43 PM EDT, attempting to get the Plaintiff to purchase Kapitus' loan services.

- 35. The e-mail's subject header was "Please DocuSign: Kapitus\_Merchant\_Application.pdf" and included a DocuSign link sent by Raziel Garcia from Kapitus. See Exhibit "1", a true and correct printout of said email.
- 36. The "DocuSign" e-mail included the name "James Symons" which is not the Plaintiff's name, and is not a name that Plaintiff has ever used or gone by.
- 37. Plaintiff does not have any affiliation with anyone by the name of "James Symons".
- 38. Plaintiff also received an e-mail at 3:45 PM with the subject header "Bank statements!", attempting to get the Plaintiff to purchase Kapitus' loan services. See Exhibit "2".
- 39. Call 2: At 12:50 PM, the Plaintiff received a telemarketing call which displayed on Plaintiff's caller ID as (212) 664-8517, and upon answering, Plaintiff was connected with a representative calling on behalf of Kapitus.
- 40. The Plaintiff hung up the phone without providing consent to Defendant for any future telephone contacts.
- 41. Call 3: On June 18, 2019 at 4:29 PM EDT, the Plaintiff received a telemarketing call from Raziel Garcia with Kapitus calling from caller ID (212) 812-4646.
- 42. The Plaintiff did not answer this call.
- 43. Mr. Garcia left a voicemail message for the Plaintiff attempting to get the Plaintiff to apply for a loan with Kapitus.
- 44. Call 4 (text message): On June 20, 2019 at 10:36 AM, the Plaintiff received a text message from phone number 929-203-3931 which read: "Hey James, when you get the chance give me a call I started getting your file ready and wanted to get an update on getting me the application with the bank statements. Raziel from Kapitus." A true and correct screenshot of this text message is attached as Exhibit "3".

- 45. Call 5: On June 20, 2019 at 2:04 PM, Plaintiff received a missed call from the same caller ID, 212-812-4646.
- **46.** Call 6: On June 25, 2019 at 1:48 PM, the Plaintiff received a missed call and voicemail from Raziel Garcia from phone number, 212-812-4646, calling on behalf of Kapitus.
- 47. The voicemail said: "Hey James, it's Raz over at Kapitus. Just give me a call at 212-812-4646."
- 48. Call 7: On June 27, 2019 at 12:36 PM, the Plaintiff received a prerecorded voicemail from phone number (646) 722-1493 which said: "Hi, this is Shelby calling from Kapitus. I'm reaching out because I recently came across your business financing application that you had submitted a little while back. But it's my understanding that we weren't able to find you the financing that you were looking for. So I wanted to reach out and let you know that we've recently updated our product offerings and our upgraded our pricing options, um, so I think that we may now be able to find something that would for you. If you're interested, please give me a call back. Our direct line is 646-722-1493. Again, that number is 646-722-1493. Thanks again, looking forward to hearing back from you."
- 49. Call 8: On July 19, 2019, the Plaintiff received a prerecorded voicemail from phone number (646) 722-1493.
- 50. The content of the voicemail message was the *exact same voicemail message* as Call #7 that occurred on June 27, 2019, without even any slight changes or modifications.
- 51. This is because the voicemail message was sent using an artificial or prerecorded voicem, and was not actually left by a human being at the time of the phone call.
- 52. Call 9: On July 25, 2019 at 11:58 AM, the Plaintiff received a voicemail from phone number (212) 812-4646.

- 53. No actual voice message was left.
- 54. Instead, the voicemail only contained background noise.
- 55. Call 10: On July 31, 2019 at 10:10 AM, Plaintiff received a prerecorded voicemail from phone number (646) 722-1493.
- 56. The content of the voicemail message was the *exact same voicemail message* as Calls #7-8 that occurred on June 27 and July 19, 2019, respectively, without even any slight changes or modifications.
- 57. Again, this is because the voicemail message was sent via an artificial or prerecorded voice.
- 58. Calls 11-14: Plaintiff received prerecorded voicemail messages from phone number (646) 722-1493 on the following dates and times: August 15, 2019 at 11:41 AM, August 26, 2019 at 11:49 AM, September 10, 2019 at 10:24 AM, and September 19, 2019 at 11:09 AM.
- 59. All of these voicemails were prerecorded and had the exact same prerecorded voicemail messages as previously described above in Calls #7, 8 and 10, with no slight modifications or changes whatsoever.
- **60.** These calls were all made for the purposes of advertising Defendant's loan and/or financial services to the Plaintiff.
- 61. On this basis, the Plaintiff avers that Calls 7-8 and 11-14 were initiated to his phone number using an "artificial or prerecorded voice". See 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).
- 62. The following is a table detailing the telemarketing calls sent by Defendant to the Plaintiff's personal cell phone number:

Call Number:	Date:	Time	Caller ID:	Notes
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1	06/17/2019	3:38 PM	(212) 812-4646	Telemarketing call. Received e-mail from "Raziel Garcia" at 3:45 PM.
2	6/17/2019	12:50 PM	(212) 664-8517	Call from Raziel Garcia. Lasted 1 minute.
3	06/18/2019	4:29 PM	(212) 812-4646	Voicemail from Raziel Garcia
4	06/20/2019	2:04 PM	(212) 812-4646	Missed Call
5	06/20/2019	10:36 AM	(929) 203-3931	Text Message from Raziel Garcia
6	06/25/2019	1:48 PM	(212) 812-4646	Voicemail from Raziel Garcia
7	06/27/2019	12:36 PM	(646) 722-1493	Prerecorded Voicemail from Shelby with Kapitus
8	07/19/2019	12:46 PM	(646) 722-1493	Prerecorded Voicemail from Shelby with Kapitus
9	07/25/2019	11:58 AM	(212) 812-4646	Voicemail, but no actual message left, just dead air.
10	07/31/2019	10:10 AM	(646) 722-1493	Prerecorded Voicemail from Shelby with Kapitus
11	08/15/2019	11:41 AM	(646) 722-1493	Prerecorded Voicemail from Shelby with Kapitus
12	08/26/2019	11:49 AM	(646) 722-1493	Prerecorded Voicemail from Shelby with Kapitus
13	09/10/2019	10:24 AM	(646) 722-1493	Prerecorded Voicemail from Shelby with Kapitus
14	09/19/2019	11:09 AM	(646) 722-1493	Prerecorded Voicemail from

Shelby with
Kapitus

- 63. On October 2, 2019, Plaintiff received another e-mail from Mr. Garcia containing a DocuSign link. The DocuSign link was subsequently "voided" on October 16, 2019. Upon clicking the DocuSign link, Plaintiff cannot now view the actual document which Mr. Garcia wanted him to electronically sign via DocuSign. A true and correct copy of the e-mail is attached as Exhibit "4".
- 64. Instead, Plaintiff is now re-directed to a webpage which says "Envelope Unavailable" and states:

"For more information, please contact the sender.

Raziel Garcia Strategic Funding Source, Inc. rgarcia@kapitus.com"

See Exhibit "5", and true and correct printout of said website (accessed: April 6, 2022).

- 65. This is significant because it confirms the fact that Mr. Garcia was working on behalf of Defendant, Strategic Funding Source, Inc., which does business as Kapitus.
- 66. Upon information and belief, Strategic Funding Source, Inc. rebranded itself as "Kapitus" in or around early 2019. See <a href="https://debanked.com/2019/01/why-strategic-funding-rebranded-as-kapitus/">https://debanked.com/2019/01/why-strategic-funding-rebranded-as-kapitus/</a> (accessed: April 6, 2022) and <a href="https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/strategic-funding-source-announces-launch-of-new-brand-identity-unites-its-funding-arm-and-servicing-arm-under-the-name-kapitus-300778245.html">https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/strategic-funding-arm-and-servicing-funding-source-announces-launch-of-new-brand-identity-unites-its-funding-arm-and-servicing-arm-under-the-name-kapitus-300778245.html">https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/strategic-funding-arm-and-servicing-funding-arm-and-servicing-funding-arm-and-servicing-arm-under-the-name-kapitus-300778245.html</a> (accessed: April 6, 2022).
- 67. Plaintiff did not want or need a loan or any financing.
- 68. The impersonal and generic nature of Defendant's voicemail messages demonstrates that Defendant utilized an artificial or prerecorded voice in making the calls.

- 69. These facts, as well as the geographic distance between the Plaintiff and Defendant and the fact that this was clearly an aggressive nationwide telemarketing campaign, indicate that the telemarketing calls (Numbers 7-8 and 11-14 as detailed above) were sent using an artificial or prerecorded voice message.
- 70. Upon information and belief, Defendant's automated dialer also used a random or sequential number generator to send automated telemarketing calls/voicemails to Plaintiff's cell phone.

### Defendant Called Plaintiff without Consent; No Prior Existing Business Relationship

- 71. Defendant did not have the Plaintiff's prior express written consent to make any of these telemarketing calls.
- 72. Prior to these unsolicited telephone communications, the Plaintiff has never done any business with Defendant and Plaintiff never provided Defendant with his cellular telephone number.
- 73. Plaintiff never submitted an application for financing with Defendant or any of its agents or vendors.
- 74. Plaintiff has never directed anyone to submit any application for financing on his behalf with Defendant or any of its agents or vendors.
- 75. Plaintiff never "opted-in" to receive telephone communications, automated or otherwise, from Defendant or its agents/vendors.
- 76. To the extent Defendant contends that they obtained consent or agreement from Plaintiff for the calls at issue here, the Telemarketing Sales Rule, 16 C.F.R. § 310.5(a)(5), requires that such records be maintained. In any event, consent is an affirmative defense under the TCPA, this defense is unavailable unless Defendant can show that they had prior express consent in writing,

and that they have otherwise complied with all of the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2), including maintaining written procedures on national do-not-call rules, training personnel on national do-not-call rules, maintaining an internal do-not-call list, and accessing the national do-not-call database no more than 31 days prior to making any calls, and maintaining records documenting such access. Defendant did not have prior express written consent to such calls from Plaintiff.

- 77. Plaintiff pays for each incoming and outgoing call on his telephone under an unlimited calling arrangement, as defined and set forth in 47 CFR § 64.1200(a)(1)(iii).
- 78. Plaintiff received the calls on his private mobile telephone, as defined and set forth in 47 CFR § 64.1200(a)(1)(iii). Plaintiff's telephone number is registered with T-Mobile as a cellular telephone number and is used for personal purposes.
- 79. These telephone solicitations constituted "calls" under the TCPA that were not for emergency purposes.
- 80. Defendant is not an organization exempt from the TCPA.
- 81. Defendant's calls to Plaintiff were "telephone solicitations" as defined by the TCPA.
- 82. Defendant's calls to Plaintiff were "unsolicited advertisements" as defined by the TCPA.
- 83. Plaintiff was harmed by these calls. Plaintiff was temporarily deprived of legitimate use of his phone because of the call/text notifications, and his privacy was improperly invaded.

  Moreover, these calls injured Plaintiff because they were frustrating, obnoxious, annoying, were a nuisance and disturbed the solitude of plaintiff. The calls caused Plaintiff's cell phone battery's depletion, used up cellular data, and prevented Plaintiff from otherwise using his telephone for lawful purposes.

84. In summary, Plaintiff received thirteen (13) telemarketing calls from Defendant, of which Plaintiff alleges that seven (7) were made using an artificial or prerecorded voice, to Plaintiff's personal and residential cell phone number which is registered on the National Do-Not-Call list.

#### **Causes Of Action**

#### **First Cause of Action**

(Negligent Violations of the TCPA, "ATDS" Prohibition, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b) et seq.)

- **85.** Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein, each of the paragraphs above.
- 86. Defendant made telemarketing calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone using an "artificial or prerecorded voice" as defined by the TCPA on at least seven (7) occasions in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 87. As a result of Defendant's and Defendant's agents' negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A), Plaintiff seeks for himself \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 88. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

#### **Second Cause of Action**

(Knowing and/or Willful Violation of the TCPA "ATDS" Prohibition, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b) et seq.)

- **89.** Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein, each of the paragraphs above.
- 90. Defendant made telemarketing calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone using an "artificial or prerecorded voice" as defined by the TCPA on at least seven (7) occasions in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

- 91. Plaintiff was statutorily damaged at least seven (7) times under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) by the Defendant by the automated telemarketing calls described above.
- 92. As a result of Defendant's and Defendant's agents' knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A), Plaintiff seeks for himself treble damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500.00 for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).
- 93. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

#### **Third Cause of Action**

(Negligent Violation of the TCPA "Sales Call/DNC" Prohibition, 47 U.S.C. § 227(c) et seq.)

- **94.** Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein, each of the paragraphs above.
- 95. Defendant called Plaintiff's private residential telephone number which was successfully registered on the National Do-Not-Call Registry more than thirty-one (31) days prior to the calls, for the purposes of commercial solicitation, in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F), and 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2).
- 96. Plaintiff was statutorily damaged at least thirteen (13) times under 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F) by the Defendant by the telemarketing calls described above, in the amount of \$500.00 per call.
- 97. As a result of Defendant's and Defendant's agents' violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F), and 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2), Plaintiff seeks for himself \$500 in statutory damages for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F).
- 98. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5)(A), Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

**Fourth Cause of Action** 

## (Knowing and/or Willful Violation of the TCPA "Sales Call/DNC" Prohibition, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.)

- 99. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein, each of the paragraphs above.
- 100. Defendant called Plaintiff's private residential telephone number which was successfully registered on the National Do-Not-Call Registry more than thirty-one (31) days prior to the calls, for the purposes of commercial solicitation, in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F), and 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2).
- 101. Plaintiff was statutorily damaged at least thirteen (13) times under 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F) by the Defendants by the telemarketing calls described above, in the amount of \$500.00 per call.
- 102. As a result of Defendant's and Defendant's agents' knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F), and 47 C.F.R. 64.1200(c)(2), Plaintiff seeks for himself treble damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500.00 for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).

## WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief against Defendant, as follows: I. Prayer for Relief

#### On Counts 1-4:

- 1. For awards of \$500 for each negligent violation as set forth in Counts 1-4.
- For awards of \$1,500 for each knowing and/or willful violation as set forth in Counts
   1-4.
  - 3. Injunctive relief against Defendants, and each of them, to prevent future wrongdoing;

Total statutory damages: \$30,000.00 (Seven (7) counts of: "Automated Call using an Artificial or Prerecorded Voice", and Thirteen (13) counts of "Sales call to a number registered on the National Do-Not-Call Registry", with treble damages for each.)

- 4. Prejudgment interest at the maximum legal rate;
- 5. Costs of suit herein incurred; and
- 6. All such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

#### II. Demand for Jury Trial

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

Dated: April 6, 2022

James Everett Shelton Plaintiff, Pro Se

316 Covered Bridge Road King of Prussia, PA 19406

Phone: 484-626-3942 Jeshelton595@gmail.com

#### **VERIFICATION**

I, JAMES EVERETT SHELTON, Plaintiff, Pro Se, verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that the statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 PA. C.S. § 4904 related to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Dated: April 6, 2022

JAMES EVERETT SHELTON

#### 

(Rev. 10/20)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS			
JAMES EVERE	TT SHELTON	STRATEGIC FUNDING SOURCE, INC., d/b/a KAPITUS			
(b) County of Residence (E	of First Listed Plaintiff MONTGOMERY (XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant NEW YORK  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)			
James Everett S	Shelton, Plaintiff Pro Se, 316 Covered ng of Prussia, PA 19406, 484-626-394	Unknown			
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff			
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	X 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only)  PTF DEF Citizen of This State  1			
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State 5 5			
		Citizen or Subject of a 3 5 Foreign Nation 6 6			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.			
CONTRACT 110 Insurance	TORTS  PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY	FORFEITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES  625 Drug Related Seizure 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 375 False Claims Act			
120 Marine	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 360 Other Personal Injury 360 Other Personal Injury 360 Other Personal Injury Medical Malpractice  CIVIL RIGHTS  440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending Property Damage Product Liability  440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	710 Fair Labor Standards   Act of 2016   (15 USC 1681 or 1692)			
	moved from 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	4 Reinstated or S Transferred from Geopened Another District Litigation - Conservation - Conserv			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	47 U.S.C. 227 et sen	filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: 30,000.00 JURY DEMAND: ▼Yes No			
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	(See instructions): JUDGE	DOCKET NUMBER			
DATE 04/06/2022	SIGNATURE OF ATTO	Skelten			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE MAG. JUDGE			

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

#### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

  United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

  United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

  Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

  Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
  - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

  Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

  Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

#### 

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM
(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 316	Covered Bridge Road, King of Pr	russia, PA 19406		
Address of Defendant	120 W. 45th St, New York, N			
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: B	y phone call to Plaintiff's phone in	King of Prussia, Pennsylvania		
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:				
Case Number:	Judge:	Date Terminated:		
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered	to any of the following questions:			
Is this case related to property included in an ear previously terminated action in this court?	Yes No V			
Does this case involve the same issue of fact or pending or within one year previously terminate	grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit d action in this court?	Yes No 🗸		
Does this case involve the validity or infringement numbered case pending or within one year previous.	ent of a patent already in suit or any earlier iously terminated action of this court?	Yes No 🗸		
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights  Yes  No  Ves				
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case this court except as noted above.	0 - 1.	within one year previously terminated action in		
DATE: 04/06/2022	Dame E Shelten	Pro Se		
DATE.	Attorney-at-Law Pro Se Plaintiff	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)		
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)				
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction	Cases:		
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): TCPA, 47 U.S.	All Other Contracts  1. Insurance Cont 2. Airplane Perso 3. Assault, Defan 4. Marine Person 5. Motor Vehicle 6. Other Personal 7. Products Liabi 8. Products Liabi 9. All other Diver (Please specify):	tract and Other Contracts and Injury nation al Injury Personal Injury Injury (Please specify): Lity Lity — Asbestos rsity Cases		
mt r.	ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION t of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility	to for arbitration		
James Everett Shelten	counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:	y joi ai citation,		
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (c) exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of	2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the of interest and costs:	damages recoverable in this civil action case		
Relief other than monetary damages is sou	ght.			
DATE: 04/06/2022	Homas & Skalton			
DATE: 04/00/2022	Sign here if applicable  Attorney-at-Law (Pro Se Plaintiff)	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)		

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

JAMES EVERETT SHELTO	CIVIL ACTION					
v.						
STRATEGIC FUNDING SOU INC., d/b/a KAPITUS				NO.		
In accordance with the Civil Japlaintiff shall complete a Case filing the complaint and serve a side of this form.) In the eved designation, that defendant shat the plaintiff and all other partie to which that defendant believed	Management copy on all cont that a defall, with its first, a Case Mi	it Track Design defendants. (Se fendant does no irst appearance, anagement Tra	e § 1:03 of the pot agree with the submit to the ck Designation	olan set forth on the in the plaintiff regarding clerk of court and se	ever g sa	se aid on
SELECT ONE OF THE FOL	LOWING	CASE MANA	GEMENT TRA	ACKS:		
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases bro	ought under	28 U.S.C. § 22	41 through § 22	255.	(	)
(b) Social Security - Cases req and Human Services denyi	questing revi ng plaintiff S	ew of a decisio Social Security	n of the Secreta Benefits.	ary of Health	(	)
(c) Arbitration - Cases require	ed to be desig	gnated for arbit	ration under Lo	ocal Civil Rule 53.2.	(	)
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving exposure to asbestos.	g claims for	personal injury	or property da	mage from	(	)
(e) Special Management – Cas commonly referred to as co the court. (See reverse side management cases.)	omplex and t	that need specia	d or intense ma	anagement by	(	)
(f) Standard Management – C	assa that do	not fall into an	v one of the otl	ner tracks	C	X)
(i) Standard Management – C	ases mai do	not fair into an	y one or the on	ioi tracks.	(-	)
04/06/2022	Dames	E Shelter		Pro Se	<u> </u>	
Date	Attorney	y-at-law		torney for		
484-626-3942			jeshe	lton595@gmail.com		_
Telephone	FAX Nu	umber	E-	Mail Address		

(Civ. 660) 10/02

#### Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

#### SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholders; stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

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